

West Virginia Writers' Project

Pocahontas-10

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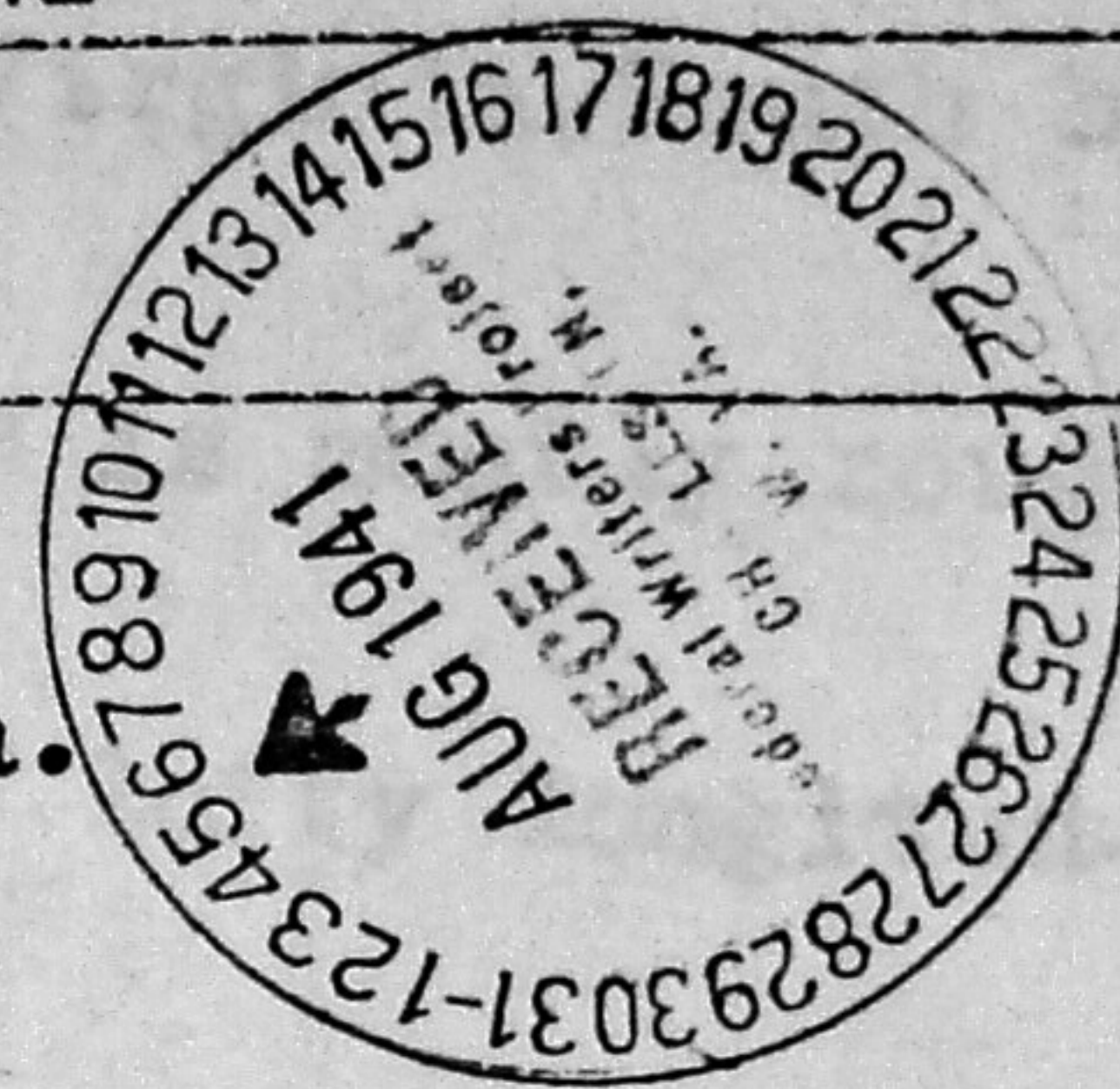
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Rella F Yeager. Hillsboro.W.Va.

Hardesty's Historical & Geographical Encyclopedia.





COUNTY GOVERNMENT—SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO.W.VA.POCAHONTAS CO.

Pocahontas County lies in the extreme eastern portion of the state, and is the southermost of what is known as the mountain tier of counties, it is bounded on the North by Randolph County, Northeast by Pendleton East and Southwest by Highland and Bath Counties, in old Virginia, South by Greenbrier and West by Greenbrier and Webster. The surface is mostly rough and mountainous, and it is here that the traveler beholds lofty longitudinal and transverse ranges, trending to every point of the compass, and as he stands and gazes upon the scene spread out before him, he experiences that feeling of sublimity which ever ~~excites~~ impresses the traveler when surrounded by lofty mountains. Here he stands entranced with the picture of scenic grandeur spread out before him whose power reared those mighty masses around him and realizes that he who did it "caused a thousand worlds to be."

It was in the month of March in the year ~~1821~~ 1821 that the general assembly of Virginia passed entitled an act to provide for the formation of a new county out of parts of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph, the area at this time was 760 square miles but in 1824 the southern boundary was changed thus taking a slice off of Greenbrier and increasing the area of Pocahontas to 820, this area of land was to be known as Pocahontas in memory of and in honor of the Indian princess of that name.

Prior to the formation of Pocahontas County the early settlers of the



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Western side of the Alleghanie Mountains had to go to Warm Springs the County seat of which we were originally a part to pay their taxes, get a marriage license and attend to all legal matters, their only mode of travel being on foot or horseback and it being considerable distance was very unhandy so when the new county was made the county seat was established at Huntersville in Pocahontas thereby making their county government closer home and making everything very much more convenient for the settlers as they had to spend as much of their time as possible at home making a living, clearing the ground, supplying the table with meat. Before the formation of the new county the sheriff of Bath County collected the taxes, enforced the laws and kept order. Court was held at Warm Springs with the judge, attorneys and justices of that section and often it was impossible to locate the sheriff to look after affairs on the western side of the Alleghany this was very unsatisfactory to the settlers on this side so they began to talk a new county with a new county seat with their own local men as heads of the new county government. About all the attention given our people was on tax day and the money being spent on the Eastern side of the mountain and this did not suit the people of what was known as West Augusta at the time before the formation of the new county, this section being mountainous and settled by the sturdy people of old Virginia it appeared to the settlers that they were <sup>Not</sup> getting the



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consideration they thought they should have so they began to work on the formation of the present county, but to accomplish this end some of the most influential men of this section had to spend considerable time negotiating with officials of old Virginia, this took place during James Monroes term as President of the United States he being a native son of Old Virginia.

Information - W.G McKeever. Buckeye. W. Va.

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